Opening of IWAI Office at Bhubaneswar

3045. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Inland Water Authority of India (IWAI) has got no office in the Eastern region;

(b) if so, whether Government are considering to open an office at Bhubaneswar; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) No, Sir, In the Eastern region Inland Waterways Authority of India has offices at Patna, Bhagalpur, Farakka and Kolkata on National Waterway No. 1.

(b) and (c) As no National Waterway exists near Bhubaneswar, as of now, opening of office of Inland Waterways Authority of India at Bhubaneswar is not under consideration.

Increase in Container Traffic at NMPT

3046. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a significant increase in container traffic at the New Mangalore Port Trust;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken to encourage container traffic at other ports also?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Container Traffic handled at New Mangalore Port during 2001-2002 is 3929 TEUs as against 1891 TEUs handled during 2000-2001.